



HALF YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT

The Northern Regional Forum

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Women Empowerment Through Access To
Livelihood & Rights & Entitlements

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Women Empowerment Through Access To Livelihood & Rights & Entitlements

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery
CIG	Common Interest Group
COVID	Coronavirus Disease
FMD	Food Mouth Disease
GPDP	Gram Panchayat Development Plan
JPI	Junior Program Implementer
KCC	Kishan Credit Card
KVK	Krishi Vigyan Kendra
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
NRLM	National Rural Livelihood Mission
PAN	Permanent Account Number
PDS	Public Distribution System
PI	Program Implementer
UKSVK	Uttar Kshetriya Samaj Vikas Kendra
VDC	Village Development Committee

INTRODUCTION

As the Saffal Project coming to the middle of its journey it brought about many effects and significant changes to share. The three set impacts or objectives of the project are being achieved through the implementation of planned activities and they brought about many results towards the development of target area. This half yearly report has been prepared by consolidating the quarterly reports from **12** implementing districts. The teams have carried out the activities in their respective target area with the support of community and different CIGs. The records of their involvement and contribution has been incorporated in the report. While consolidating we brought out the main activities implemented and the outcome of the activities. Therefore this report speaks about the changes brought through the project in the target area.

In the month of April there was Assembly election in the Uttar Pradesh state where it was overwhelmed that the politics of Uttar Pradesh is dominated by the Bharatiya Janata Party, Samajwadi Party, Indian National Congress and the government headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The states are most populous state in the country with a population of over **200** million is a hotbed of politics.

Meanwhile Gram Sabha meetings are being held to put the plan of the villages to increase infrastructure and develop basic facilities in the villages. People have started accessing the govt schemes from every department especially from agriculture and animal husbandry, horticulture and women and child development.

Most of the community is depend on the daily labour and they go out of their village to work in daily wages hence they seek support from govt. department for their income source. In this concern SHGs and other CIGs have taken up steps through the guidance of the project to start income generation activities like rearing of goats, poultry, fishery and developing vegetables and fruit gardens which will be a big help for land less people. People have stated gaining

knowledge and skills for agriculture practices which will surely support in increasing crop productivity.

The women fold remains at the side of the mainstream, though they are the main actor but less recognized. The project support has initiated the action in this concern and now the women also have started contributing in making decision for the community or for the village.

As the project commenced during the outbreak of Covid-19 it is very essential to express the situation of health in the village community. Ordinary people have affected very much because many have lost the job and do not have sufficient money for their treatment. Though during the reporting period the wave of Corona was subsided but now it is being increased and people are scared with it. The project team constantly making effort to conscientize people for the safety measures which needs to be adapted during the corona wave. The community can beat Corona only with their anticipating behavior.

The health facilities are very rare in the villages only an ANM or multi-purpose health workers pay occasional visit to Anganwadi or health centers. This consequence has been leading to increase in infant and maternal death. The situation will change as the people have started recognizing the problems and demand from the govt for the basic facilities.

There have been few important changes during the reporting months. The General Coordinator left the job and new coordinator has joined from May **2nd, 2022** in UKSVK. **1** Program Implementer (PI) have left the job and another person were appointed. **5** New Junior Program Implementers (JPI) have also been appointed during the reporting period.

IMPLEMENTING THE PROJECT AND ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES

Activity: C.5.A Crop Demonstration of Kharif and Dissemination of Traditional vs Organic:

The farmers are motivated and promoted to go for organic farming. They had been given a few training and shown the methods of organic farming. The farmers were encouraged to put up a crop demo for a small piece of land for which they were given the seed of paddy, wheat and some vegetables.

7 implementing partners have carried out the activity of crop demonstration with **665** farmers and they were given seeds for both crop season of winter and monsoon for the promotion of improved agriculture and get increase in crop yield.



Activity: C.5.B Training Session through Farmers Field School (FFS) on Package of Practice in three Stages like Land Preparation, Soil Testing, Seed Selection, Seed Sowing and Intercultural Practice & Harvesting/Storage:

During the reporting period **134** Training were conducted under this activity where **3184** farmers participated. The objective of the training is to enhance the farmers with the information of organic farming. They were shown the different methods of farming specially the seed selection, treatment of seed, treatment of soil and water. As well as treatment of soil through organic methods.



This is a continuous process with the farmers group by organizing visits to Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Department of Agriculture) and encouraging the interaction between farmers and KVK staff. The members were also encouraged to make and use of organic inputs. During the FFS the topic are covered about preparation of crop field, testing of soil, selection seed, methods of sowing and schemes of department for the farmers.





Activity: C.5.C Training Cum Workshop on Organic Farming and Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Under this activity **24** training have been carried out and **528** people participated. The purpose of the trainings to enhance knowledge and skill of the farmers to develop mechanism for preparing organic pesticides and controlling the attack of pest in their crops. The training provides time to time updates from experts to the farmers for managing the effects of pest and get good yield.



Activity: C.5.D Demonstration of Vermin Compost Units

The village farmers groups were given awareness on the use and benefit of organic farming and set up of vermin pits to prepare manure. The activity was implemented as the demonstration to show the farmers about the methods of making organic manure by earth worms. Therefore in the reporting period **96** demonstrations units in **48** villages two each village was setup.



Activity: C.5.E Demonstration Setup of Organic Inputs

Under the activity of Demonstration setup of Organic inputs **81** setup have been made on in each village. Each farmer is sponsored with **3** VPC (**1** drum of **150** liters and **2** drums of **80** liters) drums to make organic tonic and treat the land as well as crop. The training



have been organized by the project team to introduce the organic input method and they were shown how to make the organic tonic by using cow dung, cow urine mixing with some bitter leaves, jaggery and few more things. They were also told about the usage and benefit of it.



Activity: C.5.F Demonstration of Horticulture Units and Grafting of Existing Plants

To promote the extra income source, the horticulture development was planned in the project. Under this activity interested farmers were selected to set up a demonstration for horticulture units. 2 units in every village was planned to develop the skills and knowledge of the people so that they can replicate in their fields. As a total 43 demos have been completed in the reporting months.



Activity: C.5.G Training on Livestock Management, Breed Improvement and Disease Control

The livestock can become a good source of income for the family in village along with agriculture. Seeing the feasibility the activity was planned and carried out in the target villages. Total **70** training have been organized and **1490** members participated in the training programs and availed knowledge about management of livestock. Resource persons from govt. veterinary dept who are the expert by profession and they explained very well about the looking after the cattle, taking care of diseases and immunize them in time.



The community members availed the information about better health of animals. The resource person explained about the proper management of the cattle's, keeping cattle's/housing, breed improvement, measures to reduce sickness among cows, buffaloes, goats and sheep's.

Activity: C.5.H Training on Improved Livestock Management

68 training were organized at village level and **1494** people participated from different villages to gain the knowledge of livestock management, visit to see the fodder making machines. They gained the knowledge about what food to be provided at what time and the measurement of the food that need for the animals. They were given information of silage, protein, mixture etc. Also the experts said that the animal should be given



some special feed to increase the milk. Apart from these they had an opportunity to participate in the training at KVK and also received the information in the village itself.



Activity: C.5.I Training Cum Workshop on Fodder Production, Fodder Treatment and Azola Production

46 training were conducted during the reporting month where 1117 people from the target villages participated to enhance skill and knowledge about producing fodder for their animals. The participants were explained about the methods of azola production & fodder production. Azola is used as a fodder for cattles and it can be given as dry azola to the cow and buffalos and for feeding poultry. Azola is grown in paddy field it controls the weeds and acts as natural organic mulch in the area of farming. It also retains the soil moisture level by slowing down the water evaporation rate. It also controls the rapid increase of mosquito breeding.



Activity: C.5.L Facilitating Half Yearly Vaccination Camps

Diseases in the animals like foot and mouth disease (FMD) and brucellosis are highly contagious viral vesicular disease of cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep, goats and pigs etc. FMD leads to reduction in milk yield, decreased growth rate, infertility, reduced working capacity in bullocks, trade embargo in the international market. Brucellosis is a reproductive disease of cattle and buffaloes caused by bacterium *brucella abortus*. The disease is characterized by fever, induces abortion at the last stage of pregnancy, infertility, delayed heat, interrupted lactation resulting in loss of calves, loss in production of meat and milk.



To prevent the animals from these diseases other cares are taken but vaccination twice a year is compulsory. During this reporting month **8** camps were organized in different villages and the cattle of **255** families were given vaccination. The veterinary department also assisted in this activity for the benefit of the people.



Outcome 2: Increased Demand and Access to Services and Entitlements for all Eligible and Marginalized Families in Twelve Districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan

Activity: C.6.A Orientation Cum Training of Community Members on the Various Rights & Entitlement Especially Related to Govt. Schemes

77 training have been organized by the project team on government schemes, NRLM & MNREGA, Rights of Women and Rural development and 1917 people from common interest groups members and community members participated. The activity was conducted to enhance their knowledge on various welfare schemes of state and central government and policies so that families may access their rights and entitlement.



Through this training people were benefitted with the different schemes such as E-labor card, Housing schemes, I-card for disabled people, tricycle certificates, PAN and Aadhar card etc. They have also built up the rapport with the officers who are working for the benefit of the people. Many people have applied for different schemes in different departments and their cases are on process.

Activity: C.6.B Half Yearly Interface Meeting with Different Line Department for Available Schemes and Services

Under this activity 10 meetings were organized and 634 people participated. The objective of the meeting was to have face to face dialogue with govt. officials and the people of target area. This activity was conducted in different places. The govt officials from different departments were invited for the meeting who gave useful

information about different government schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, PDS system, loan for livelihood, loan for animal, Sukanya Yojana, Kanya Susmangala Yojana, old age pension, widow pension, disabled person pension, information on KCC, Seed distribution from the KVK, protection while any calamity faced by the population etc.



Outcome 3: Improved Performance of Women Representatives in PRI to Promote Good Governance in 31-Gram Panchayat of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan through Active Participation of Women Members

Activity: C.7.A Training Cum Orientation on Importance of Formation of GPDP Plan to WDP

The training were organized in **50** villages for **1350** people. Different resource persons were hired in different areas to facilitate the training about the welfare schemes of govt departments. The people are aware about the very few schemes those are old age pension, widow pension,, housing and PDS. In the training they

were given awareness about different pension schemes, scheme for labour and its registration, Shishu Hit Labh Yojana, Matru Hit Labh Yojana, Scholarship for students, Samuh Vivah, Rajiv Gandhi Health care, Avas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krushi Panjikan, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Schemes for Farmers from KVK etc.



Activity: C.7.B Training of CIG for Strengthening, Group Management, Roles & Responsibilities of the Members

Training of CIG Strengthening was held in **60** villages and **1509** members participated in the training. The objectives of the training were to give awareness and strengthen them to strong unity, group management, roles & responsibility and record keeping. The following category of CIG are formed by the community that are Labour Group, Farmer;s Group, Divyang Group, Self Help Group, VDC, Livestock Interest



Group, Mahila Manda. the general understanding of CIG is to begin saving certain amount and use the saving amount for their family need as loan. Looking at this mentality of the population the project staffs decided to take the CIG members much beyond saving. Hence the sessions were held for strengthening them to

solve the economic issues of the society. During this term the members were enhanced with the livelihood activities so that group can become the self-sufficient. Also they started resolving community issues that need raise the voice through the group leadership.



Outputs

- **586** CIG are formed and strengthened in target villages.
- **7** Crop demonstration has been set up for Rabi and Kharif cropping with **665** selected farmers to impart the knowledge to the farmers in modern and improved agriculture technics.
- Step-by-step on field education has been given to **3184** farmers through FFS by experts from agriculture dept.
- **81** Demonstration set ups also have done for preparation of vermin compost through earth worms and organic pesticides and fertilizers with locally available materials.
- **43** Demonstration set up for developing horticulture gardens have been carried out with selected farmers as a model for others.
- **70** Training have been organized in different topics for the members of community to make them awareness on livestock management, fodder production, goatery raring, govt. schemes, CIG strengthening.
- **10** Interface meetings were organized with govt dept to have talk on govt schemes and the benefits.
- **08** Vaccination camps were organized to give vaccination to the cattle to prevent from all seasonal sickness.

OTHER ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

- Capacity building training for Saffal team have been organized by UKSVK in March 2022. The topics were on Government Livelihood Rights and Entitlement Schemes and training on Panchayati Raj System and GPDP Plan.



- A Review meeting was conducted in March 2022 for all the 40 staff to assess the progress and evaluate its impact of the project.



SPECIAL DAYS OBSERVED



International Women's Day

- On the occasion of International Women's Day program was organized on 8th March 2022 in **67** villages of target area where **3330** women and community members participated. The invited guests and govt officials oriented the women folk about their rights and privileges and motivated them to build up strong unity and help each other.



World Water Day

- On 22nd March, the World Water Day was observed by the people of project villages. the meetings were organized in **32** villages and message was spread out to save water through different ways. **1204** participants were given awareness on better usage of water, pollution of water and means for conservation of water.



Earth Day

- The Day was observed on 22nd April, 2022 in **18** villages to demonstrate support for protection of environment. On this occasion community meetings were organized in project villages and awareness talk was given to **760** participants on Climate change, Causes for water and air pollution and its effects. Meanwhile people were encouraged to plant more trees, use of organic methods in agriculture and avoid use of chemicals, avoid plastic usage and save the Earth.



LESSONS LEARNED

- The meetings of different CIGs are an effective platform for people to express their thoughts, discuss and take decision.
- People learn and adopt the methods and technics introduces through various demonstrations.
- People realize that organic method is farming will be more beneficial in future. They become aware about the benefits of organic farming.
- More kitchen gardens will gradually improve the status of nutrition in target villages.
- Linkage with Govt. Dept is building up and they become aware about government schemes related to livelihood.
- The organization becomes more aware about the schemes and activities of govt. dept related to agriculture and livelihood and incorporate the activities with them.
- Facilitation skills are being developed in the team members and they can guide the community for more participation in activities.
- The team members become capable in effective reporting and documentation.

CONCLUSION

The project has completed one and half years, during this period the interventions led to mitigate the issues of the community and facilitated by staff to achieve the project objectives. Formation and strengthening of CIGs, meeting th people door to door and imparting knowledge and skills through awareness have brought lot of change in the lives.

Women are promoted to get the benefit from govt dept through SHG and start income generation activities like goat rearing, petty shops, developing fruit gardens. Farmers are enhanced with the knowledge of improved technics of agriculture methods through FFS on fields. The demonstration is helping the

community to learn improved methods of agriculture and inputs which in future will give more benefit to them. The community people are very keen to adopt organic methods of agriculture.

The conclude we can say that we as implementing team learning from each other and build up our capacity to facilitate the community of target villages more effectively. The acceptance by the people and learning is a good indicator for the success of the project and will bring significant change by the end of the project. Formation of new groups and participation of more people was the result of learning and implementing.

Glimpses...





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